Banning maize exports

1261. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to ban maize exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The expected production of maize in India this year should suffice to meet the domestic and export demand. The domestic prices are under control and exports that are a small fraction of production are unlikely to raise the domestic prices significantly. Hence, in the interest of maize farmers, the Government has decided, not to ban maize exports for time being.

Scams in STCs

1262. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has unearthed scams in State Trading Corporation of India (STC) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the action taken so far; and

(d) what steps Government is taking to strengthen the STCs especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There are two cases in STC, in the last three years, which are being investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation. These are (i) Regarding financial assistance extended by STC to M/S Metro Machinery Traders (MMT) and M/s AG Agro Pvt. Limited (AGAPL) and (ii) Regarding import of pulses by STC.

(d) Presently STC has a Branch Office at Hyderabad and the existing strength is 14 managers and 17 staff. Besides this, there is a sub-branch office at Guntur under Hyderabad Branch having a strength of 1 manager and 10 staff. As per the existing volume of business activities at both the offices in Andhra Pradesh, the present working strength is considered to be adequate. However, as and when there is increase in the business activities in the Andhra region, further steps will be taken to strengthen the manpower at Andhra Pradesh based on requirement of Hyderabad Branch.

Purchase of Lockheed Aircrafts from USA

1263. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to purchase Lockheed Aircrafts from USA: